

CITY OF PIERZ  
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council  
September 10, 2007

Members Present: Toby Egan, Herb Broschofsky, Stephanie Fyten, Roland Hartmann, Kathy Kahlhamer, and Maureen Watercott

The preliminary annual budget meeting was called to order by Mayor Toby Egan at 6:30 p.m. at Pierz City Hall.

Members discussed potential changes to the annual budget with an emphasis on possibly eliminating an annual levy increase. City Administrator Mike DeRosia and Treasurer Maureen Watercott initially prepared the proposed 2008 budget so as to reflect a 3.6% levy increase.

Pending no further discussion the budget session was closed and the Council was ready to begin the regular meeting.

The recessed City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Toby Egan at Pierz City Hall.

Motion made by Councilmember Broschofsky, seconded by Councilmember Fyten to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting with a needed correction. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Fyten to approve tonight's Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Recognition of Visitors:**

Bob Bzdock was present to discuss the possibility of having a sled dog race in Pierz. The race would be held at the Pierz golf course. In recent years, the Council has agreed to support the race, but a lack of snow has prevented a race from ever being held in the City. Bob will return for the October 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to follow up with the Council. No action taken.

**Planning and Zoning:**

-Consider Permit, Addition, Laura Firkus

Motion made by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Broschofsky to approve the issuance of a building permit for an addition to the Firkus' home. Motion carried unanimously.

-Pond View Estates Project

City Engineer Jim Schulz was present to update the Council regarding this project. Kloss Enterprises is currently working on combining several lots in the subdivision so as to build town home structures. The City will be notified when they are ready to move forward.

- Resolution 091007-01

The City Clerk introduced this resolution, which calls for preparation of proposed assessment and declares cost to be assessed in regards to the Park Avenue Improvements and Councilmember Broschofsky moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hartmann, all voted in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

**Items of Business:**

-Call for Proposals, New City Building

The City Council directed the City Administrator to compile a cost estimate for constructing a library building and/or a library/City hall building. The City Administrator will report findings at the next Council meeting. No action taken.

#### Set Preliminary Levy and TNT Hearing Date

- The Council has reviewed the proposed budget and will be decreasing some amounts dedicated to police equipment, and increasing funding toward road repair. Pending no further discussion, Mayor Egan made a motion to approve the preliminary 2008 levy amount and budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Broschofsky, and all voted in favor of a 2008 preliminary levy amount of \$280,515.00. Motion carried unanimously. As a result of a 0% increase, no TNT hearing is necessary.

#### US Cable Franchise Fee Discussion

- George Weber, School Superintendent and Mike DeRosia, City Administrator proposed to the Council the idea of re-directing franchise fees to the cable access channel to pay for televising events and meetings in Pierz. The City receives an average of \$1,600 per quarter, which is applied to the general fund. Weber and DeRosia explained that the City has the option to use a portion of these fees, with the school district splitting annual costs in order to pay the cable access provider. The Council was in support of this, and a motion was made by Councilmember Fyten, seconded by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk to move forward with this venture. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Department Reports:**

**Fire:** Brian Boser was present to discuss the following issues.

Brian would like authorization from the City Council to begin advertising for the position of firefighter, as several current firefighters are retiring. Motion made by Mayor Egan, seconded by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk to begin advertising. Motion carried unanimously.

**Police:** Steve Boser was present to discuss the following issues with the Council.

Administrative tickets were in jeopardy of being banned in Minnesota cities recently, but Steve reported that the Senate voted to continue allowing cities to issue the citations within their city limits.

**Parks:** Daniel Baert was present to discuss the following issues with the Council.

- Daniel reported that he is shutting the water pumps off at the golf course, in anticipation of the golf season ending. He will also be beginning the winterization process soon.

**Public Works:** Bob Otremba was present to discuss the following issues with the Council.

Bob reported to the Council the amount of hours worked overtime by City employees assisting with public works-related job duties.

**Administration:** Mike DeRosia was present to discuss the following issues with the Council.

- Mike will be presenting the Main Street reconstruction project to the State Senate bonding committee in November in Saint Cloud. Also, Mike reported that he is preparing a storm damage assessment for Representative Al Doty for him to use at the legislative special session coming soon.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

August 31 checking account balance: \$399,028.83

Motion made by Councilmember Broschofsky, seconded by Councilmember Hartmann to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Claims:**

The claims for the month have been prepared for review and total \$146,632.65. Motion made by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Fyten to approve paying the claims. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mayor Egan, seconded by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

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Toby Egan, Mayor, City of Pierz

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Kathy Kahlhamer, Clerk, City of Pierz